

REVISED

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS28631 / H0229

In order to snowmobile in Idaho, users are required to have a snowmobile use certificate, or sticker. Fees are primarily used to annually construct and maintain groomed snowmobile trails throughout Idaho, which are used and enjoyed by snowmobilers (who pay all the fees), dog sledgers, cross-country skiers, snow-shoers, fat tire bicycles and others (who pay no fees). Funds are also used to maintain winter parking lots and toilets, which are used year-round by other users. Funds also support grooming huts and equipment purchases and labor. All fees are pay-to-play user fees that have not been increased since 2007. Increased fees will be used to support these programs, and to also add support to the state search and rescue fund and to assist Idaho Department of Lands with recreation management. \$1 will also be set aside from each sticker to establish a statewide snowmobile avalanche fund. The avalanche fund will be used to support avalanche awareness education, avalanche forecasting, avalanche warning systems, and avalanche response throughout Idaho. This bill raises the resident use certificate fee to \$45.50 (up from \$32.50), the nonresident use certificate fee to \$59.50 (up from \$32.50), and the rental snowmobile use certificate fee to \$75.50 (up from \$62.50). This bill promotes the safety of winter sports recreation, while it will also promote, enhance and increase winter sports recreation opportunities. Snowmobiling's economic impact to Idaho exceeds \$197.5 million annually.

FISCAL NOTE

No impact to the general fund. Increased revenue to dedicated funds, to wit -

- \$41,978 in additional annual funding to state snowmobile search and rescue fund;
- \$41,978 in new annual funding to Idaho Department of Lands recreation programs/administration;
- \$41,978 in new annual funding to state snowmobile avalanche fund;
- \$611,692 in additional annual funding to state snowmobile fund, of which \$282,700 is derived from residents and rental machine, and \$328,992 is derived from non-residents.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).